GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:620
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment opportunities in the agriculture sector has declined in the country over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the contribution of agriculture sector in creating job opportunities during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether rural youths are not opting agriculture as a career and profession in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make agriculture a remunerative and attracting sector for rural youths?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. As per Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country, comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers, increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.1 million (118.8 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011.

(c) & (d): According to NSSO data, the proportion of rural youth engaged in the agricultural sector has declined over the period 2004-05 to 2011-12, details of which are as under:

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in (ps+ss) of rural youth engaged in agricultural sector

(All-India)

Year	WPR
2004-05	401
2009-10	303
2011-12	259

Note: For working out WPR, youths are deemed to be the persons belonging to the age group 15-29 years.
ps: principal status, ss: subsidiary status

(e): Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and ensuring timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs. Various Programmes/Schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented. Also, Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) of various agricultural commodities with a view to ensure that farmers get remunerative returns for their produce.

Under the Twelfth Five Year Plan, there is special focus on leveraging private investment in agriculture sector and making markets more efficient and competitive.